



NATIONAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS  
RESEARCH LABORATORY  
MID-CONTINENT ECOLOGY DIVISION  
6201 CONGDON BOULEVARD • DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55804-2595

OFFICE OF  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

## ECOTOX System Update May 2000



<http://www.epa.gov/ecotox/>

The ECOTOX homepage includes links to all user support documents, frequently asked questions, other ecotoxicology tools available on the web, and on-line support. Documentation is available on the web page either as interactive on-line or printable PDF format. The ECOTOX Technical Support Document is now split into two documents, Data Field Definitions (explains the content of each data field) and Code List (contains the definitions for all codes used in ECOTOX). For detailed information on how each data field is encoded, the Aquatic and Terrestrial Coding Guidelines are available in PDF format. The ASTER User Manual is available in PDF format.

### Release of ECOTOX Version 2.0

After a shutdown of the ECOTOX web-site from February 17-March 31, 2000 due to security concerns (see below), MED-Duluth has released an updated version of ECOTOX on the World Wide Web. The new release includes all the terrestrial and aquatic data included in the previous telnet version of ECOTOX, as well as new aquatic and terrestrial data coded since 1998.

As a result of the latest update, 1,920 aquatic and 19,345 terrestrial test records were added or modified in the ECOTOX database. Toxic effects data from more than 15,000 scientific publications have been reviewed and abstracted, including 289 aquatic studies and 20 terrestrial studies published in 1999. ECOTOX includes toxic effects data for 9,024 chemicals and 4,975 aquatic and terrestrial species.

ECOTOX version 2.0 is accessible from the EPA web-site:

### EPA Security Shutdown

As many of our clients know, EPA shutdown all Agency public web-site on February 17, 2000 due to security concerns. In evaluating various security issues, changes needed to be made to various web-sites including ECOTOX. Most changes have been implemented and are seamless to users. You should be aware that there are some items that are still not functioning and may not be available in the future..

- TELNET: We have had many questions about the telnet versions of ECOTOX and ASTER. Due to security concerns, EPA has shutdown all telnet functions for sites similar to the MED ERLD\_ORD account. Therefore this means of accessing MED

---

**MED-Duluth Scientific Outreach Program**  
**T: 218-529-5225; E-mail: [ecotox.support@epa.gov](mailto:ecotox.support@epa.gov); Fax: 218-529-5003**  
**<http://www.epa.gov/ecotox/>**

applications is no longer available, and there are no plans to reinstate this type of access.

- ASTER: Due to the disabling of telnet, ASTER is no longer available to government users on-line. If local, state, federal or international governmental agencies have a need for information in ASTER, they should contact the Scientific Outreach Program. Searches will only be conducted for governmental clients. Contractors working for governmental agencies should route requests through their government contacts.
- FULL DOWNLOADS OF AQUIRE / TERRETOX DATABASES: Currently, complete downloads of the aquatic and terrestrial components of ECOTOX are disabled. EPA has shutdown all anonymous ftp from the public access server. They have set up a secure ftp server, and MED-Duluth is in the process of getting approval to use this site. We should have this up and running by June 1, 2000, but users interested in a complete download of the database for incorporation into local databases should check the data downloads page for updated status information.

[www.epa.gov/ecotox/help/ecotox\\_download.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ecotox/help/ecotox_download.htm)

## User Feedback

We would appreciate receiving comments from you regarding features you would like to see in future modifications to the ECOTOX web-site. You should also contact us with any problems you encounter when using the ECOTOX site. Comments should be directed to the ECOTOX Outreach and Technical Support Program: (E-mail: [ecotox.support@epa.gov](mailto:ecotox.support@epa.gov)). You can E-mail comments to MED-Duluth staff through the ECOTOX web-site by clicking on the "Contact Us" link at the bottom of any page.

## Plans for the Year 2000

MED-Duluth has several projects that are on-going this year.

- MED-Duluth plans on conducting quarterly updates of the aquatic and terrestrial components of the ECOTOX database. The next update is scheduled for July 1, 2000.
- In October 2000, MED-Duluth will release on the World-Wide-Web a beta-version of the Toxicity / Residue database. This database presents residue-based effects data for aquatic species, abstracted from the peer reviewed literature. The web-interface will allow users to search on chemicals and species of interest. Outputs will include reports similar to the ECOTOX database, but will also incorporate data plots. People interested in being involved in the testing of this database should contact Chris Russom (E-mail: [russom.chris@epa.gov](mailto:russom.chris@epa.gov)).

